

(d) the action taken by Government in this regard so far?

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR):** (a) During 1990-91, CSD purchased Indian Made Foreign Liquor, Rum and Beer from M/s Mohan Meakins Ltd. valued at Rs. 17.50 crores.

(b) to (d). A complaint had been received in November, 1990, from one of the Unit Run Canteens regarding the presence of a foreign body in a bottle of rum called 'Black Beauty'. After analytical test, it was confirmed that the sample did not conform to Specifications. Accordingly, all CSD Depots stopped the sale of the affected batch. Penalty, as per Contract terms, has been levied on the distillery. Another complaint was received in August 1991 from one of the CSD Depots that a particular batch of 'Lion' brand of beer manufactured by this firm in the year 1990-91 was found to be sedimented. The sale of the affected batch has been suspended in all the Depots and the samples of the affected batch have been sent for testing.

[English]

#### **Implementation of Court Orders**

**3716. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA:** Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 275 on March 30, 1990 and state:

(a) whether the Government have ensured that the instructions issued to the Ministries/Departments are complied with in time and no case not involving substantial questions of law or public importance is filled by any Department of the Union Government and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMAGALAM):** (a) and (b). The reply given to Starred Question No. 275 on 30.3.1990 was on the subject of prompt implementation of Court Orders which have become final with a view to avoid contempt petitions for non-compliance of the same. In the said reply, no reference was made to filling of cases not involving substantial questions of law or public importance. However, in service matters, all the Ministries and Departments of Government of India have been requested to ensure that appeals are filed only in those matters which require authoritative pronouncement of the Supreme Court on matters of law or questions of general importance.

#### **Payment to Crew of Merchant Ships**

**3717. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the crew of Indian merchant ships are paid in foreign exchange for the period of their stay in foreign waters;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total amount paid in foreign exchange during each of the last three years; and

(d) whether the Government propose to pay them in Indian currency and provide tax relief?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER):** (a) Yes, Sir. At the option of the crew.

(b) While in foreign waters the crew

have to incur expenditure in Foreign currencies. The payment is made to them as per agreement between the Shipowners and Unions.

(c) Government do not maintain the details of payment by Shipowners to the crew members either in foreign exchange or in Indian currency.

(d) There is no proposal to pay them exclusively in Indian currency or to provide tax relief on such payment.

### **Effect of Duty Exemptions on Prices**

3718. SHRIM.V.V.S. MURTHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated loss of revenue to the Union Government due to duty exemptions granted during the current year;

(b) whether there has been any effect on prices as expected by the Government due to these duty exemptions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWARTHAKUR): (a) The estimated annual loss of revenue by way of exemptions, either partly or wholly, from customs and excise duties, during the current year so far is Rs. 1209.73 crores of which Rs. 1180.58 crores relate to the budget proposals of 1991-92.

(b) and (c). Duty exemptions are granted for achieving different objectives like reducing input cost, protecting the small scale sector, promotion of exports etc. It is expected that some of these concessions would result in reduced prices to the consumers. However, Government does not enforce price control on most manufactured products. Market prices are generally determined by a

multiplicity of factors. While there is no legal mechanism except in cases where there is a price control to see that the concessions are passed on to the consumers by the industry, the administrative Ministries hold dialogue with the concerned industry with a view to persuade them to reduce prices where duty concessions are granted in order to bring down the prices.

### **Group Insurance Scheme for Landless and Agricultural Labourers**

3719. SHRIM.V.V.S. MURTHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of beneficiaries under the Group Insurance Scheme for landless agricultural labourers in Andhra Pradesh, since its inception, district-wise;

(b) the number and amount of claims settled under this scheme, so far in the state, year-wise;

(c) whether there is any proposal to extend the scheme to other poorer sections of the society;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) It is not the practice in the Life Insurance Corporation of India to maintain district-wise statistics in respect of the beneficiaries under the Group Insurance Scheme for landless agricultural labourers. However, the total number of beneficiaries under the said scheme in Andhra Pradesh has been estimated as on 31st March, 1991 to be 6.75 lakhs.

(b) The number and amount of claims settled under this scheme are as below: